DOCKET NO.: THOM-0014

Application No.: 09/857,735

Office Action Dated: April 22, 2004

PATENT REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO 37 CFR § 1.116

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously Presented): A bag according to claim 26, in which the tag is positioned

substantially centrally of the said margin of the bag.

3. (Previously Presented): A bag according to claim 26, in which the tag is folded to lie

within the contour of the bag sides until withdrawn.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented): A bag according to claim 26, in which the inside surfaces of the

outside legs of the tag are in peel seal engagement with the outside surfaces of the inside legs

of the tag in said M-shaped configuration.

6. (Previously Presented): A bag according to claim 26, in which only those parts of the

outside legs of the tag extending beyond the inside legs are sealed to the bag sides.

7. (Previously Presented): A bag according to claim 26, in which the tag is provided with a

line of weakness along the junction of the inside legs of the tag.

8. (Original): A bag according to claim 7, in which the line of weakness comprises a row of

perforations.

9. (Previously Presented): A bag according to claim 26, in which the tag is made of a

laminated material.

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10. (Original): A bag according to claim 9, in which the laminated material comprises at least three layers.

11. (Original): A bag according to claim 10, in which the laminated material comprises four

layers, a first layer of a material which is sealable to a plastics film, a second layer of a

relatively strong material, a third layer which has heat insulating properties and a fourth layer

of peel seal material.

12. (Previously Presented): A bag according to claim 26, which has a reclosable zipper and

two seals extending parallel to the said margin, one of which is a reclosable zipper seal.

13. (Original): A bag according to claim 12, in which the reclosable zipper seal is on the

inside in relation to the other seal, and the tag is located within both seals.

14. (Previously Presented): A bag according to claim 12, in which the zipper has marginal

flanges extending from interengagable male and female closure members, and the tag is

sealed to inside surfaces of flanges extending from the closure members towards the mouth of

the bag.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 27, which includes sealing the tag

to flanges of a reclosable zipper having interengageable male and female closure members,

sealing the zipper and tag to a host material which is to form the sides of the bag, forming the

bag, and creating a second seal parallel to said margin, on the side of the zipper which is

closer to the mouth of the bag, with the tag extending through the second seal.

17. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 27, which includes sealing the tag

to a host material which is to form the sides of the bag, forming the bag, and creating the at

least one seal parallel to said margin with the tag extending through the at least one seal.

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18. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 27, which includes folding a length of laminated material into a generally M-shaped configuration in cross-section, and cutting off a section of the folded material to form the tag.

- 19. (Original): A method according to claim 18, which includes providing a line of weakness along the junction of the inside legs of the tag.
- 20. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 17, in which the tag is located on the host material so that the tag lies within the contour of the bag sides when the bag is completed and sealed.
- 21. (Previously Presented): Tag material comprising an elongate strip comprising a first layer having an outside surface suitable to be sealed to a web of plastics material and a second layer having an outside surface having peel-seal properties, wherein the strip is folded about its longitudinal axis into a generally M-shaped configuration with two outer legs and two inner legs that form an inner tuck, wherein the first layer is on the outside of the M-shaped configuration and the outer legs extend beyond the tuck.
- 22. (Original): Tag material according to claim 21, in which a line of weakness is provided along the length of the strip so as to be located at the apex of the tuck when folded.
- 23. (Original): Tag material according to claim 22, in which the line of weakness comprises a row of perforations through the strip.
- 24. (Previously Presented): Tag material according to claim 21, in which the strip also includes a layer of strengthening material between the first and second layers.
- 25. (Previously Presented): Tag material according to claim 21, in which the strip also includes a layer of heat insulating material between the first and second layers.
- 26. (Currently Amended): A plastic bag comprising:

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a pair of sides defining an openable mouth along one margin of the sides; at least one seal extending parallel to said margin; and

a tag accessible from the exterior of the bag with the bag sealed closed and located within the length of said at least one seal, the tag being of a width to extend over only a portion of the length of the seal and being folded in a generally M-shaped configuration in cross-section to define two outside legs and two inside legs located between the outside legs, with outside surfaces of the outside legs of the tag being sealed to the bag sides at said at least one seal, whereby the inside legs of the tag can be manually withdrawn from between the outside legs and the outside legs can be separated to open a zone of the at least one seal to permit access to the interior of the bag.

27. (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a plastics bag having a pair of sides defining an openable mouth, comprising the steps of:

providing at least one seal extending parallel to a margin of the bag which defines said openable mouth; and

incorporating within the length of said at least one seal a tag which is of a width to extend over only a portion of the length of the seal and is folded in a generally M-shaped configuration in cross-section to define two outside legs and two inside legs located between the outside legs, with surfaces of the outside legs of the tag being sealed to the bag sides at said at least one seal, whereby the tag is accessible from the exterior of the bag with the bag sealed closed and said inside legs of the tag can be manually withdrawn from between the outside legs and the outside legs can be separated to open a zone of the at least one seal to permit access to the interior of the bag.